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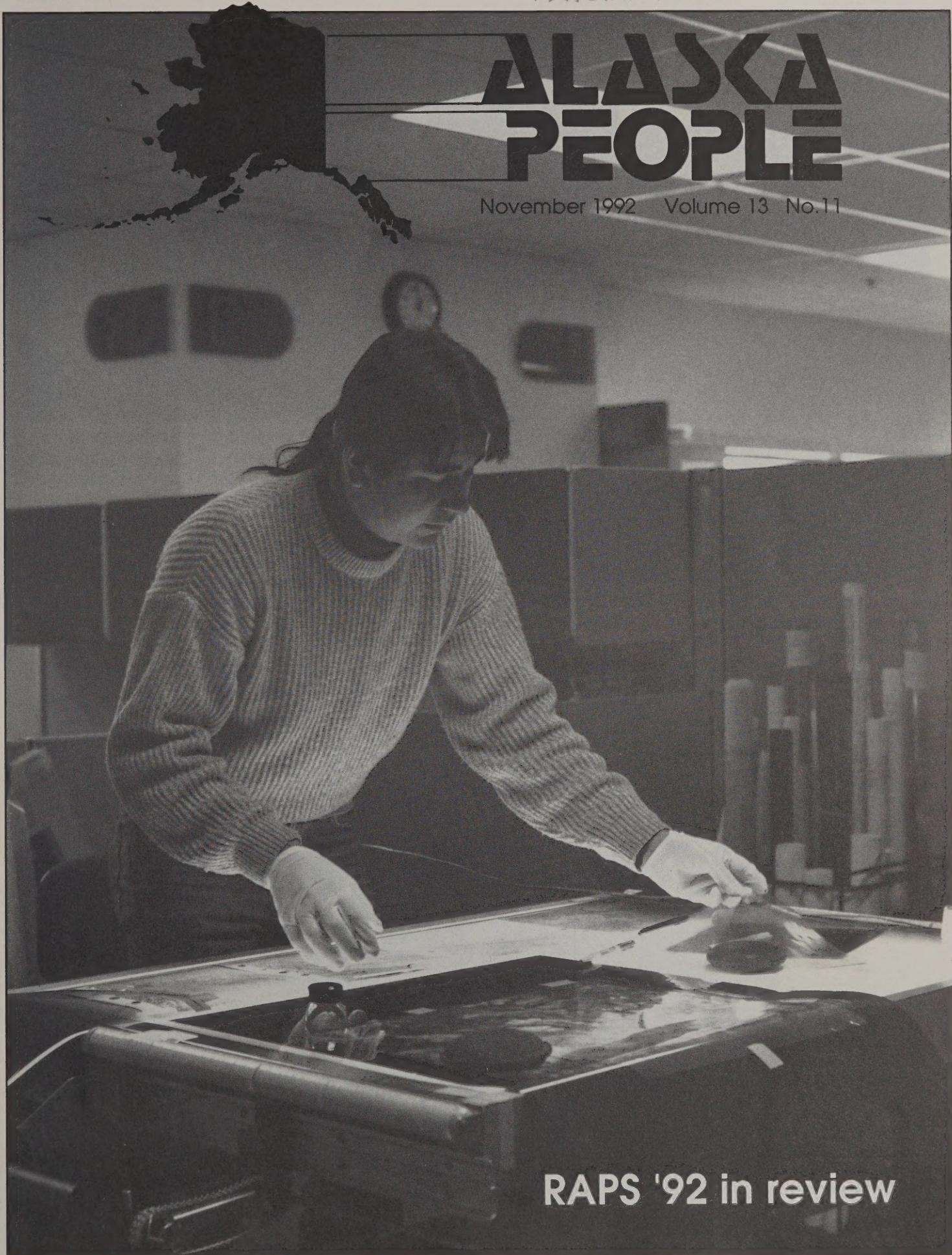
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ALASKA PEOPLE

November 1992 Volume 13 No.11



RAPS '92 in review

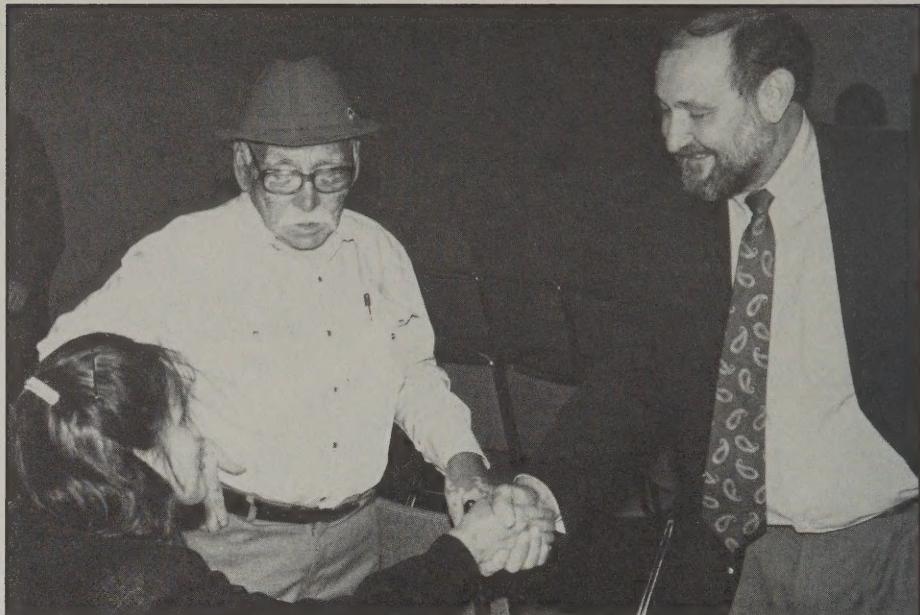
BLMers share expertise at AFN Annual Convention

This year the Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention Oct. 15-17 included presentations by BLM employees on topics ranging from land surveying to Native allotments to federal job opportunities.

Cadastral Survey gave a half-day workshop on land surveying in conjunction with R&M Consulting. The workshop discussed BLM's role in surveying Alaska, and how Native Corporations may submit proposals for survey contracts under the Indian Self-Determination Act.

A presentation sponsored by the Conveyances Division discussed the FY 93 conveyance schedule, selection priorities,

Sandor Feher

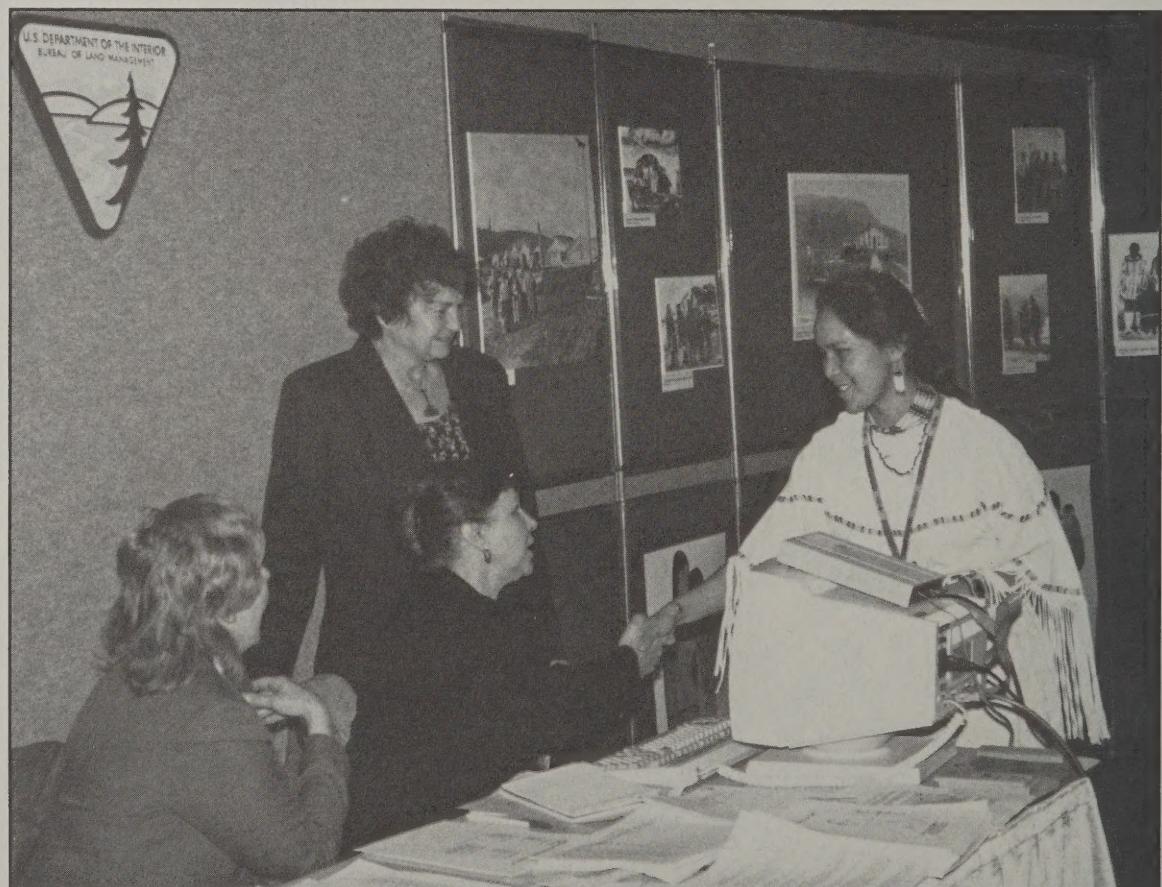


Cadastral Survey DSD George Oviatt (right) visits with AFN shareholders during the association's annual convention in Anchorage.

status of entitlements, and land records automation. Personnel from Human Resources discussed job recruitment programs such as cooperative education and RAPS.

BLM employees from several divisions staffed an information

booth throughout the convention. The booth included a remote computer linkup with BLM's Land Information System which BLM employees used to answer questions regarding the status of Native allotments.



Land law examiner Arlene Rocker chats with Iditarod musher Beverly Masek of Willow. Rocker, Dot Tideman (standing) and Melitta White helped staff a BLM information booth during the convention.

Sandor Feher

Volunteer plays key role in char study

by Andy Williams

From aquatic plants in North Carolina to arctic char in Alaska's Kigluaiak Mountains is quite a reach. Graham Davis made that reach as a volunteer for BLM.

Davis studied an unusual variety of char isolated in lakes in the Kigluaiak Mountains last summer with Joe Webb, Kobuk District fisheries biologist.

Davis is an estuarine ecologist and former chairman of the Department of Biology at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. When he retired three years ago, he turned his eyes north to Alaska for a second career of volunteer work and adventure.

Scouting out volunteer opportunities through the American Hiking Association, Davis signed up first with the U.S. Forest Service. He surveyed salt marsh vegetation on Chichagof Island in the Tongass National Forest the first year and surveyed glacial valley vegetation in the Chugach National Forest near Girdwood the second year.

By the third summer he was ready for something new. "I decided to come back to Alaska one more summer if I could work my way north," he said. "I called up Joe Webb and Joe said, 'Wow, I was just looking through your resume.' The rest is history."

Davis wanted to go straight out to the Kigluaiks, but Webb asked him first to review the available literature on arctic char research.

According to Webb, arctic char interest biologists because of their great genetic variability, and have been widely researched in Europe in the last 10 or 12 years.

Arctic char were first identified in the Kigluaiak lakes during a 1987 inventory. Since then, BLM researchers have surveyed about 10 of the most promising lakes in the Kigluaiak range. They found char in seven of the lakes.

According to Davis and Webb,



Graham Davis at campsite near a lake in the Kigluaiak Mountains.

the lakes containing the char were formed by glaciers, and most have no inflowing streams and are isolated from other nearby fish populations by barriers that prevent access from downstream. They said the char apparently have evolved in isolation for several thousand years and may have developed certain physical characteristics distinct from other char populations.

After conducting his literature review, Davis joined Webb for field work in the Kigluaiaks. Webb said Davis' report on the litera-

ture of char research is a valuable contribution that will provide the groundwork for a detailed study of the char populations. He has nominated Davis for a national volunteer award through the BLM awards program.

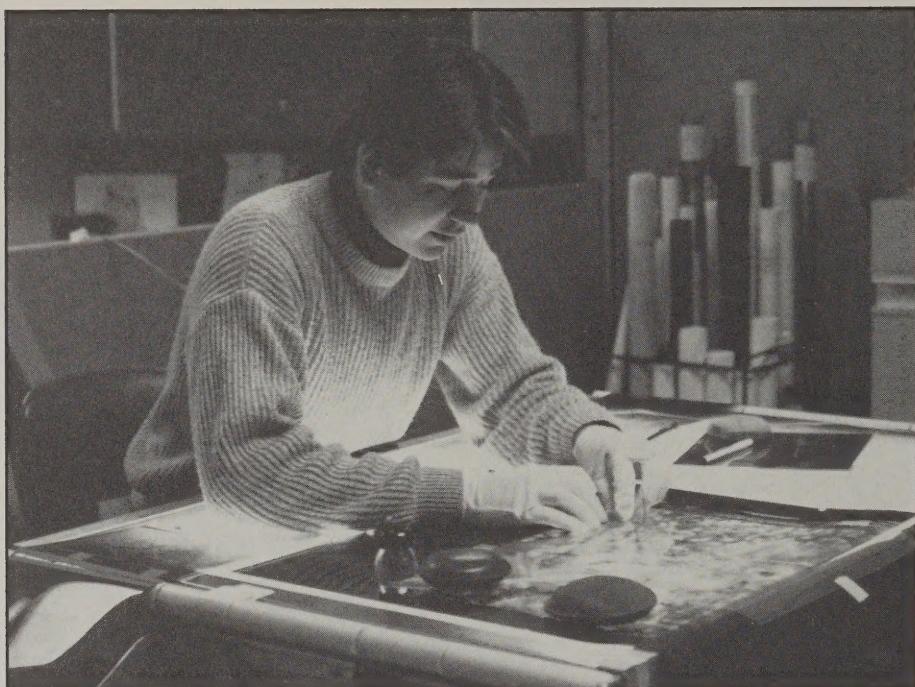
Davis' work with char apparently gave him a taste for Alaskan fisheries. This winter he's working as an Alaska Department of Fish and Game observer aboard a crab boat out of Dutch Harbor, but hopes to come back to the Kigluaiak Mountains next summer.



Joe Webb (left) presents volunteer Graham Davis with a BLM commemorative belt buckle. Webb has nominated Davis for a national BLM volunteer award.

Andy Williams

Looking back at RAPS '92



Second-year RAPS student Justin Rousseau of Soldotna.

The 1992 summer RAPS season ended in late September as the last students returned to village high schools or to colleges and universities in Alaska and the Lower 48. This summer marked the program's sixth year, and brought a few challenges and many successes.

An increase in funding meant more students than ever

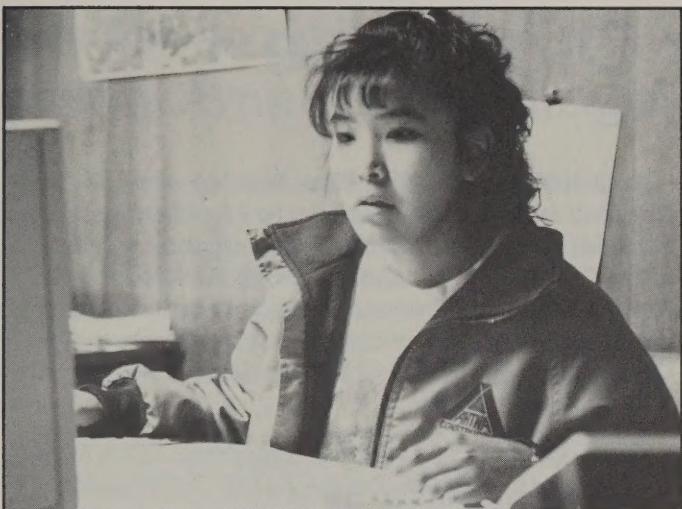
participated in this summer's program, from 37 students last year to 47 this year. A second major plus to this year's program was the RAPS handbook, an educational component developed by coordinator Bob Jones and his crew of VISTA volunteers. The handbook offered a series of self-paced lessons with assignments to help students increase their reading, writing, math and communication skills.

But perhaps the biggest plus to this summer's program was the level of cooperation between federal and state agencies, Native groups, and the private sector. What started as solely a BLM program in 1987 has now expanded to eight government agencies, seven Native groups, and two private sector organizations.

This cooperation gave a RAPS student from St. Paul Island the opportunity to work with Fish and Wildlife Service biologists at a nature camp for children on the Pribilof Islands, thanks to funding from the Alaska Conservation Foundation. And when host families could not be found for four students selected to apprentice with the National Park Service and the Fish and



RAPS students Andy Kosbruk of Perryville and Princess Peter-Raboff of Arctic Village worked in the Division of Information Resources Management.



Frances Jackson of Gakona apprenticed with the Glennallen District Office.

Wildlife Service at King Salmon, JTPA funds paid for a counselor to live in a Fish & Wildlife bunkhouse with the students.

"This shows how the RAPS program brought together two other federal agencies, four students and a camp counselor," said VISTA volunteer Jeff Brune. "Such a union is a true victory, a display of

creativity. It shows how federal agencies can cooperate, join forces to create opportunity for youth."

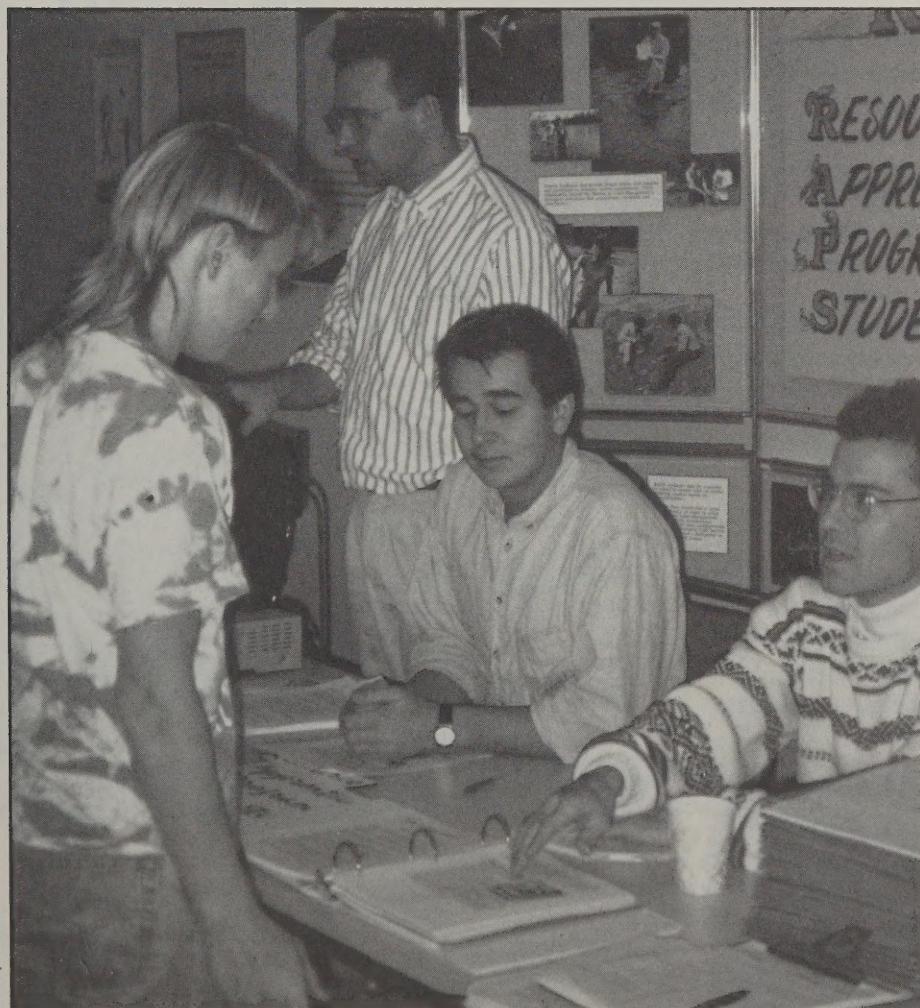
A tip of the hat...

RAPS coordinator Bob Jones' team of VISTA volunteers are the workhorses behind the success of this summer's program. Their extensive cooperation with other agencies prompted several letters of commendation:

"I want to thank Jeff Brune and Steve Haines for a super job at the Youth Practicum. It was easy to see how much the students appreciated your efforts too." —Micki Hellickson, Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park.

"The hard work and dedication of the VISTA volunteers...have been invaluable. We view RAPS as a long-term commitment to rural Alaska students on all our parts and believe that VISTA plays a key role." —Edward Merritt, Refuge Manager, Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.

"You have inspired me to go on with this program and with my goals to attend college. In my language, Quyana Caknek, thank you very much." —Charlene Kawagley, RAPS student from Akiak.



RECRUITING FOR RAPS—BLM staffed an information booth during the Alaska Federation of Natives Youth Convention Oct. 12-13 in Anchorage. The annual event includes informational meetings, workshops and information booths targeting the issues that face Alaska Native youth.

VISTA volunteers Jeff Brune (r), Steve Haines (l) and RAPS student Justin Rousseau (c) staffed the BLM booth and answered questions about RAPS from the young people attending the convention. "RAPS was a hit across the board," said Brune. "Students, teachers and family members alike were very interested in hearing about RAPS."

Workwise or Otherwise

Rob McWhorter



On Oct. 9 employees from the **Division of Conveyance Management** attended the Aleut Corporation's annual meeting in Anchorage. DSD Wayne Boden, Southwest Adjudication branch chief Mary Jane Piggott (photo center), and land law examiners Kathy Flippen and Rory Spurlock discussed land selections with Aleut shareholders at the meeting. Piggott's branch provided color-coded maps showing land status of 13 villages in the Aleut Corporation.

"The purpose of the maps was to show selection patterns," said Piggott. "This makes it easier for individual villages to see where they may be underselected or overselected, and to identify lands for withdrawal to permit future selections."



EEO Officer **Glencora Lannen** was appointed vice-chair of the Anchorage Federal Executive Association's Civil Rights Committee for FY 93. The committee is comprised of federal EEO officials in the Anchorage area. Its purpose is to form an interagency alternative dispute resolution council to provide independent neutral review of EEO complaints and grievances.

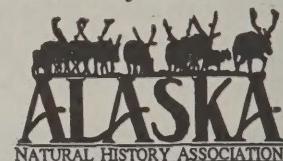
Ed Bovy

EEO's **Barbara Wiley** was re-elected Federal Women's Program chair for the fifth consecutive year. Wiley will oversee the FWP's annual Career Challenges workshop and the yearly scholarship program.



In October the **Alaska Fire Service** sent 17 logistics and support workers to Florida's Everglades National Park to help restore services and rebuild facilities destroyed by Hurricane Andrew. The AFS seasonal employees volunteered for the mission and are expected to remain two to three months to assist the Park Service in the relief and cleanup efforts.

When you do your holiday shopping, don't forget to stop by the **Alaska Public Lands Information Centers** in either Fairbanks or Anchorage. At APLIC you can choose a gift for yourself or others from one of Alaska's best natural history collections of quality books, maps, slides, photographs, videos and posters. The Anchorage APLIC has a separate shelf devoted to children's books, and gifts for both children and adults are available in all price ranges. If you join the Alaska Natural History Association, you receive a 15 percent discount on all your purchases at all ANHA outlets throughout the state for an entire year.



KCS Adjudication branch chief **Terry Hassett** spent the month of October in Hawaii as a pilot with the Air National Guard. Hassett helped transport supplies, ice and personnel to and from the island of Kauai during Hurricane Iniki cleanup efforts.

Arts fair to celebrate Native American heritage

November is Native American Heritage Month. To commemorate BLM will once again sponsor the annual Native Arts and Crafts Fair in the atrium of the Anchorage Federal Office Building. Organized by Mike Johnson, BLM's Native American Program coordinator, this event brings together Native artists and artisans from around the state to share the art and culture of their Native heritage.

"This is the 500th anniversary of Columbus' 'discovery' of the New World," said Johnson. "This year along with recognition of the 'discoverer,' recognition is being placed on the 'discoverees,' Native Americans, and the contributions they have made in our society."

Johnson also plans a commemorative display later this month in the atrium area.

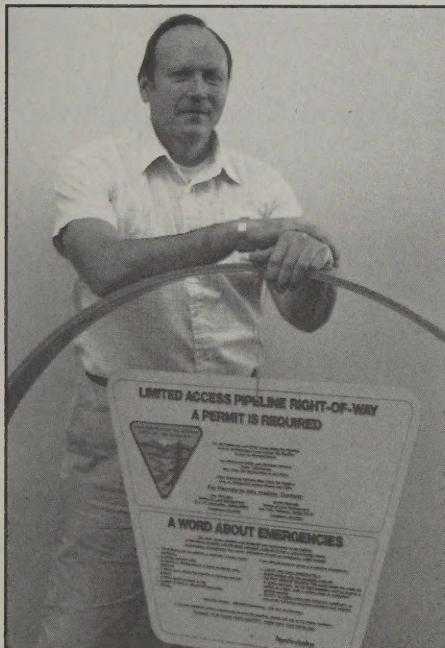
Due to scheduling conflicts, the dates of the fair will be Dec. 7-11 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Mark your calendar and visit with the artists during this special event.



Native Alaska women create beaded jewelry and hair accessories in traditional designs during the 1991 Native Arts and Crafts Fair.

Did you know—

Congress has designated 1992 the Year of the American Indian. In a proclamation signed March 2, 1992, President George Bush states: "This year gives us the opportunity to recognize the special place Native Americans hold in our society, to affirm the right of Indian tribes to exist as sovereign entities, and to seek greater mutual understanding and trust."



Engineer **Don Knight** said farewell to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and to 27 years of federal service when he retired Oct. 31. Knight has been with the Joint Pipeline Office since it opened in 1990, and was with DOI's Alaska Pipeline Office during the pipeline's construction. Knight has some short-term travel plans, but says he will remain a resident of Alaska. He's a certified flight instructor, and says he may look for something in aviation or engineering eventually. "But for now, I'd like to take a month or two off and kick back a little," he said with a smile.

Applause!

On-the-Spot Cash Award

Sharon Bruce, Staff Assistant, Division of Operations

Length of Service Award

10-Year Service Award
Rita Booth, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, Division of Lands & Renewable Resources

Jerri Sansone, Land Law Examiner, Division of Conveyance Management

Donna Kreiensieck, Forestry Technician, Alaska Fire Service

Terry O'Connell, Support Services Supervisor, Division of Operations

Darlene Thomas, Mail & File Clerk, Division of Operations

William Dawson, Bindery Machine Operator, Division of Administration

Rosaline Holland, Land Law Examiner, Division of Conveyance Management

Clay Dalen, Forestry Technician, Alaska Fire Service

20-Year Service Award

John Douts, Supervisory Cartographic Technician, Division of Cadastral Survey
Linda Butts, Supervisory Land Law Examiner, Division of Operations

30-Year Service Award
Joan Steltenpohl, Computer Assistant, Division of Information Resources Management

Retirements

Donald Knight, Civil Engineer, Division of Mineral Resources

Welcome Aboard

Marcia Williams, Computer Specialist, Division of Conveyance Management
Ricke O'Brien, Materials Handler, Alaska Fire Service

Moving On

Phillip Wilkins, Land Surveyor, Division of Cadastral Survey

Randy Tracy



At the request of the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection Officer at Tok, Kobuk District Ranger Mike Billbe searches an illegally killed caribou for the rifle bullet. Steese/White Mountains Ranger Randy Tracy removed the bullet and returned it to Tok for examination. The rifling marks on the bullet, along with information from the general public, may help identify and convict the poacher.

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On the Cover:

RAPS student Justin Rousseau of Soldotna plots aerial photos for photogrammetric survey of the Emmonak area. Story on page 4.



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